

**Amendment to the Abstract:**

Please delete the entire abstract and replace it with the following abstract:

**ABSTRACT**

An improved carrier useful for preparing a catalyst having excellent catalytic performance when used in the production of alkylene oxide, such as ethylene oxide. The carrier is obtained by impregnating a preformed alpha-alumina carrier with at least one alkali metal hydroxide modifier, b) drying the [[said]] impregnated carrier, calcining the [[, said]] dried carrier, and washing the [[said]] calcined carrier. A particularly useful alkali metal hydroxide is sodium hydroxide.